to crumble. A disastrous%ter with Japan (1894-1895) was the signal, and was quickly succeeded by the threatened partition of the country among the powers (1895-1899). A vain attempt to oust the alien (1900) ended in humiliating prostration before him. In the revolutionary attempts at adjustment which followed, the Manchus were swept aside (1912) and a republic attempted. During the ensuing civil strife the nation declined more and more toward political chaos. At the same time startling changes came in every phase of the people's life—in the family and social structure, in religion, in intellectual activities, and in economic organization. After five decades (1894-1944), the process seems only to have begun. After 1931 and especially after 1937 events were complicated by the progressive conquest of much of the country by Japan.

THE FIRST WAR WITH GREAT BRITAIN (1839-1842)

As we have seen, the pressure of the West on China was due to the renewed expansion of European peoples, caused by what is usually termed the Industrial Revolution. We have also seen that Great Britain, the Occidental power in which that revolution originated, was the chief of the maritime commercial nations and, dissatisfied with the conditions under which the Chinese permitted trade, was the first in the new era to seek to coerce the Chinese into granting better terms. To the British, accustomed to intercourse between nations on the basis of equality, the Chinese procedure, grounded in the conviction that all other peoples were tributary to the Emperor, was intolerable. Chinese tonnage dues, taxes on imports and exports, other fees on commerce, and trade regulations seemed galling and arbitrary. Chinese

judicial proc-
esses were regarded as high-handed and unjust: the legal pro-
cedures of the two nations differed, the Chinese theory of group
responsibility clashed with the British concept of individual re-
sponsibility, the Chinese authorities employed torture as part of
the judicial process, Chinese courts were corrupt, their penalties
seemed excessive, and the innocent were often not given a fair
hearing. Had the British been ready to abide by a basic prin-
ciple of that international law by which they professed to be
guided—the sovereignty of each nation—they might well have
reminded themselves that they had no treaty rights in the coun-